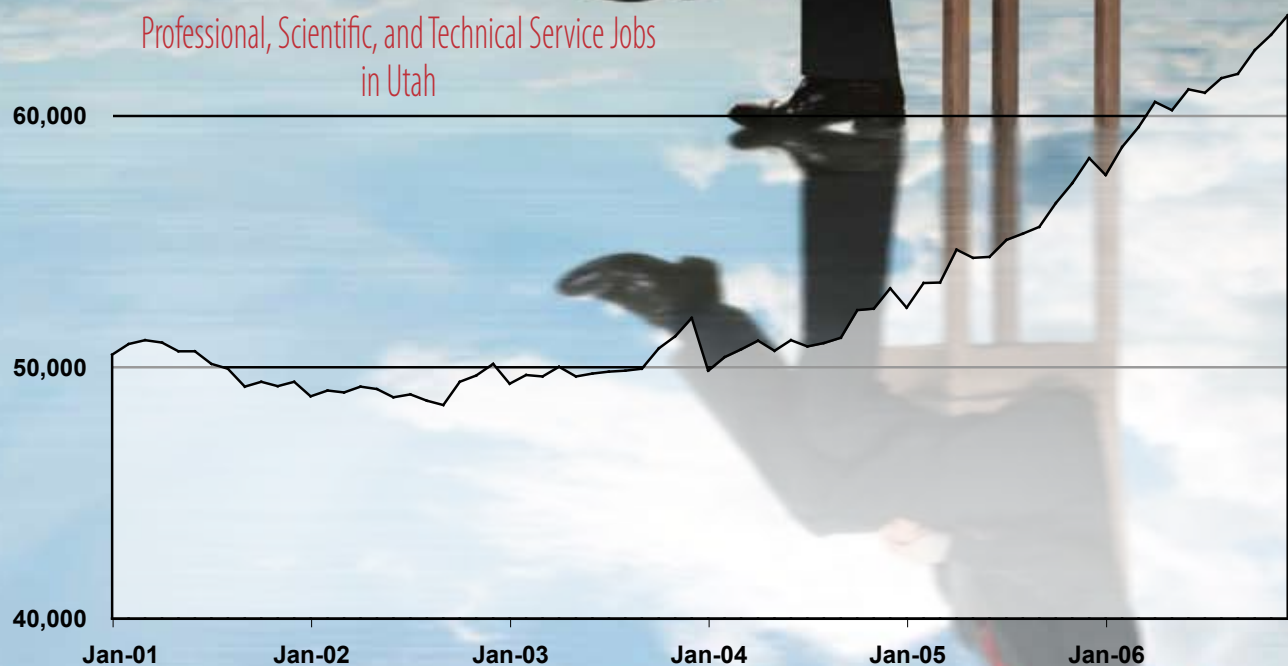


High Skills and High Paying



Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

For the last two-to-three years the Utah economy has been racing along. From the summer of 2004 through the end of 2006 there were 146,000 new jobs created, an increase of 13.3 percent. Construction and other housing-related sectors (building supply, real estate, mortgage finance, etc.), along with the energy boom in the Uintah Basin were major drivers of the current expansion. One underappreciated economic sector that has contributed a great deal to Utah's economic expansion has been professional, scientific, and technical services (PSTS).

The PSTS industry sector is very diverse and includes businesses that perform specialized activities—for industries, households, or individuals—requiring a high degree of expertise and training. The technical and professional services within this industry group include: legal advice and representation; custom computer programming and computer system design; engineering and architectural services; management, marketing, scientific and technical consulting; accounting, payroll and tax services; scientific research, development and laboratory testing services; market research and public opinion polling; veterinary services, specialized design services; photographic services; and other PSTS activities.

The distinguishing feature of this industry group is the selling of expertise with most activities being dependent on worker skill rather than equipment and materials. Qualifications to

provide PSTS services typically require a high degree of training or education, and often require formal certification.

Because of the relatively high level of skill and education, wages within the PSTS sector are well above average. In 2006, the PSTS average annual wage was about \$53,000, or 53 percent higher than the average of 34,600 for all Utah nonfarm jobs. There were \$3.2 billion in total payroll wages in this industry, or 7.8 percent of the total Utah 2006 nonfarm payroll of \$41.7 billion.

Of the 1.24 million nonfarm jobs in Utah at the close of 2006, the PSTS sector employed 64,000 or 5.1 percent of the total (see graph). From July 2004 through December 2006, PSTS industry employment increased by 13,200, or 26 percent—almost double the total job growth rate of 13.3 percent for all nonfarm industries. The five largest activities contributing to the employment increase of 13,200 were: custom computer programming and computer system design (3,300 jobs); management, marketing, and technical consulting (3,000 jobs); engineering services (1,600 jobs); legal services (1,000 jobs); accounting, payroll, and tax services (800 jobs).

The high-skilled and high-paying service jobs in the professional, scientific, and technical industry sector directly employs an increasing number of Utahns, giving ongoing impetus to Utah's hot labor market. In addition, this industry provides critical expertise and support to all other industries in the state. ①

One underappreciated economic sector that has contributed a great deal to Utah's economic expansion has been professional, scientific, and technical services.

Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services in Utah

	2006 Average Employment	Change in Employment July 2004 to December 2006	
		Amount	Percent
Legal Services	8,308	971	12.9%
Custom Computer Programming	8,050	2,599	44.0%
Engineering Services	7,273	1,553	25.3%
Management, Marketing, & Other Consulting Services	6,512	3,073	74.1%
Accounting, Payroll and Tax Services	6,022	1,577	33.5%
Scientific Research and Development Services	4,142	514	13.8%
Computer Systems Design Services	3,707	650	20.7%
Advertising Services	3,422	504	16.3%
Marketing Research and Public Opinion Polling	2,608	(18)	-0.7%
Architectural Services	1,906	510	33.1%
Veterinary Services	1,746	278	17.9%
All Other Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	7,292	982	14.6%
Total Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	60,987	13,193	26.0%